(b) In order to improve the performance of Patratu and Barauni thermal power stations, comprehensive renovation and modernisation schemes have been prepared and are being implemented. The total cost of the renovation scheme of Patratu is Rs. 3530.8 lakhs, whereas that of Barauni is Rs. 1556.3 lakhs. A part of the expenditure on renovation and modernisation schemes will be met out of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for renovation and modernisation of existing' thermal power stations.

Workers participation in OIL

1418. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers' participation scheme has been introduced in Coal India Ltd., and its subsidiary companies;

(b) if so, since when it was introduced and at how many place* and level at which, it is operating;

(c) what criteria are adopted in giving representation to the working class; and

(d) what are their powers and what are their achievements?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) A scheme to constitute Joint Management Committees at unit level in the coal industry by 31st March, 1986 was announced in October, 1985; but on account of objections from certain Trade Unions with regard to modalities to be followed while implementing the scheme and certain other issues, the implementation of the scheme has been kept in abeyance. A Committee of representatives of Central Trade Unions has been constituted to evolve a scheme acceptable to all. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

1419. *[Transferred to the* 19/fc *March,* 1986.]

Products of drugs sold under loan licence scheme

1420. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of products of drugs which are being sold under loan licence arrangements by Cadila, Alembic, Ranbaxy, Cipla and Unichem companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH); Permission to produce drugs under loan licence arrangements is granted by the State Drug Controllers and as such this information is not available in this Department.

Speedy compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy vctims

1421. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion to enact a comprehensive legislation by Parliament to provide speedy compensation and relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what alternative measures are proposed for expeditious payment of compensation to the victims so as to save them from unending legal proceedings in Courts of Law ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims)Act, 1985 confers certain powers on the Central Government to secure that claims arising out of or connected with the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster are dealt with speedily, effectively, equitably and to the best advantage of all the

claimants. A Scheme known as Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme has also been formulated and notified under the Act for the purpose of expeditious determination and disposal of claims.

Closure of cycle mobile post offices

1422. SHRI B, SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA.-

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gove rnment have decided to close down all the cycle mobile post offices in different towns and cities and to keep the only main offices to function in the name of economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to abolish home delivery and in its place propose to introduce delivery booth system; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this as many as 1000 extra departmental personnel have been rendered unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) No, Sir. Cycle post offices were introduced in urban areas mainly with a view to providing postal facilities where regular post offices have not been opened due to nonavailability of accommodation or other reasons. The scheme is therefore reviewed from time to time having regard to the regular postal network that has been developed and also in the light of the standing instructions that in urban areas, post offices, mobile or stationary, should be financially self-supporting. As a result of such reviews conducted in some areas by the concerned postal authorities, cycle post offices considered redundant or were not financially self-supporting were withdrawn. There is however no general decision to withdraw all cycle post offices functioning in different towns/cities.

(b) No, Sir. The facility of door to door delivery of postal articles continues to be provided all over the country.

(c) No, Sir. The number of extra departmental employees rendered surplus to immediate requirements as a result of discontinuance of cycle post offices in some areas does not exceed 200. Some of the extra -departmental employees affected have also been reabsorbd in other available vacancies.

Telephone connections in Meghalaya

1423. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state..

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya;

(b) what is the programme for giving telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya during the next five years, and

(c) by when all the persons on the waiting list are likely to be provided with telephone connections in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya is as follows:

i. East Khasi Hills - 8r6
2. West Khasi Hills — 2
3. Jaintla I-H1K — 26
4. East Garo Hills — *1*
5. West Garo Hills — 59

(b) and (c) The programme for giving new connections district-wise for the next five years has not yet been drawn up. However, the applicants On the waiting list at present will be given connections in each District as follows:-

1. East Khasi Hills — During 1986-87
2- West Khasi Hills - During 1986-87
3- Jaintia Hilts During 1986-87 (1988-89)
4. East Garo Hills - During 1986-87
5. West Garo Hills - During 1988-89